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Carl J. Ledbetter

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WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR
2929 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891

EXAMINER

HARTMAN JR, RONALD D

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 17-21, 26-34, 36-42 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kerr, U.S. 2002/0190975.

As per claim 17, Kerr teaches a computing device or peripheral in a computing system, comprising:

- a housing comprising at least one lighting component and an opening for user display means or user input means, and an transparent or translucent layer integrated with a substantial exterior portion of said housing and positioned to provide a secondary source of information viewable in the user's workspace, whereby light emanating from the at least one lighting component propagates through said layer, said light generated according to a lighting scheme associated with a condition in the computing system or an alert from the computing system, the lighting scheme configurable by a user and synchronized among a plurality of communicatively coupled devices in a computing ecosystem (e.g. See Figures 2-3, 6 and 9 and their corresponding textual descriptions).

As per claims 18-19, Kerr teaches said condition is at least one of a state of the computing system and a notification received in the computing system (e.g. see [0051]).

As per claim 20, Kerr teaches the computing system includes a system standby mode, a system turned on mode, a system in use mode, a do not disturb system state and a system health state (e.g. see [0054]).

As per claim 26, Kerr teaches user specified alerts (e.g. see [0054]-[0055], [0062], [0069] and [0090]).

As per claim 27, Kerr teaches a lighting scheme including at least one color (e.g. see [0013]-[0014], [0020]-[0022] and [0048]).

As per claim 28, Kerr teaches a lighting scheme including at least one of brightness or intensity (e.g. see [0061], [0069], [0110] and [0112]).

As per claim 29, Kerr teaches a sound scheme is rendered in conjunction with the lighting scheme (e.g. see [0090]).

As per claim 30, Kerr teaches the computing device is at least one of a monitor, a central processing unit (CPU) epicenter, a mouse, a printer and a keyboard (e.g. See Figures 2-3, 6 and 9 and their corresponding textual descriptions).

As per claims 31-32, Kerr discloses switching lighting schemes (e.g. see [0013]-[0014], [0020]-[0022] and [0048] and Figures 2-3, 6 and 9 and their corresponding textual descriptions).

As per claim 33, Kerr teaches the computing device being a monitor, and said transparent or translucent layer is a bezel of a screen of the monitor (e.g. See Figures 2-3, 6 and 9 and their corresponding textual descriptions).

As per claims 34, Kerr teaches the utilization of zones (e.g. See [0021], [0076], [0078] and [0094]-[0101]).

As per claims 36 and 44, the rejection of claim 17, from above, are applied herein.

As per claims 37-38, the rejection of claims 18-19 are applied herein.

As per claim 39, the rejection of claim 20, from above, is applied herein.

As per claim 40, Kerr teaches configuring when and how a lighting scheme occurs (e.g. See [0013]-[0014], [0020]-[0022] and [0048] and Figures 2-3, 6 and 9 and their corresponding textual descriptions).

As per claim 41, the rejection of claim 26, from above, is applied herein.

As per claim 42, the rejection of claims 27, 28 or 29, are applied herein

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerr, as applied to claim 20 above, in view of Official Notice.

As per claim 21, Official Notice is taken with respect to a single command being capable of placing a computer system into a do not disturb state (e.g. interpreted as a “hibernation mode” or “sleep mode”). This feature is notoriously well known in the art of personal computing systems and its incorporation would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the purpose of allowing the system to operate in a low power mode, thereby conserving energy and since this “stand by

mode” reduced the thermal cycles of key components, equipment reliability is improved so that the equipment may last longer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-23, 35 and 43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D. Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 11:00 - 8:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2121

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronald D Hartman Jr./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2121

July 30, 2008

RDH